

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus for tracking and evaluating the relative value, such as the net present value, of medical services provided to patients associated with third party payors ("TPPs"). Under various embodiments of the present invention, the relative value of medical services is considered in evaluating whether to enter into an agreement with a TPP, whether to accept a new patient, when and for how long to schedule a patient appointment, and how long a physician should meet with the patient. Methods and apparatus for improving the efficiency of a medical office are also disclosed whereby a physician may more effectively supply a patient with relevant information and provide prescriptions, record billing information, order supplies, and collect payment for services provided. Methods and apparatus for improving security within a medical office and reducing employee fraud are also disclosed.

C:\Docs\Patent Cases\6299a1\Patent Application.wpd 8/30/00